

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0010] FIG. 5 is an exploded view of an internal pad with the protective headgear device.

Detailed Description of the Drawings

[0013] An exemplary embodiment of the present invention for a protective headgear 10 is shown in FIGs. 1 and 2. The protective headgear device 10 includes a circumferential member 11, or outer shell, that generally conforms to the shape of one's head and covering portions of one's head for protection. The circumferential member 11 includes a front section 14 for covering the forehead, a back section 15 for covering the back of the head, two side sections 16 for covering the ears, temples, jaws and side of the head and a top section 17. The sections 14, 15, 16 and 17 are arranged to form a first opening 12 through which a user is capable of viewing, and a second opening 13 through which a user's neck extends.

[0018] Protection to certain crucial parts of the head is supplemented by the addition of internal pads 21 secured to an interior surface of the ~~outer shell~~ circumferential member 11. As shown in FIGs. 2 and 4, the internal pads 21 are spaced apart along the internal surface of the circumferential member 11 to protect predetermined areas of the head from trauma applied to the head 25 and headgear 10. The internal pads 21 are placed on the headgear 10 so the internal pads 21 are positioned adjacent ears (not shown) of the user and the back of the head.

[0019] The internal pads 14 are preferably constructed of the same foam material used to fabricate the circumferential member 11, and are the substantially the same thickness as the circumferential member 11. The invention is not limited by these identified dimensions, which may vary according to the size of the headgear 10.

[0020] As shown in FIGs. 3 and 4, impact plates 22 are secured to the interior surface of the circumferential member 11 and disposed between the internal pads 21 and the interior surface 11A of the circumferential member 11. The impact plates 22 have an

outer edge 22A corresponding to a predetermined sensitive area on a user's head, and which are coextensive with the outer edges 21A of the internal pads 21. With respect to FIG. 5, the impact plates 22 and internal pads 21 are generally shaped to protect the outer ear of a user, but do not cover the apertures 20 on the headgear 10.

[0022] An alternative exemplary embodiment is shown in FIGs. 6 and 7, and includes a chin protector 23 integrally formed with the circumferential member 11. The chin protector 23 includes a foam section integrally formed with the side sections 16 of the circumferential member 11. An impact plate 22 and internal pad 21 are affixed to an interior surface of the chin protector 23 so that the internal pad 22 is positioned adjacent the chin of a user wearing the headgear 10.